

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to the Decision on Appeal filed October 22, 2009.

With regards to specific knowledge of the existence of a particular reference which indicates non-patentability of the appealed claims as to which the examiner was reversed, the examiner is hereby reopening prosecution under 37 CFR 1.198.

Accordingly the final rejection filed April 13, 2006 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10-13, 16, 19, 21, 22, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (hereinafter Anderson), U.S. Patent 6,567,122, in view of Sistanizadeh et al. (hereinafter Sistanizadeh), U.S. Patent 6,452,925.

4. In considering claims 1, 7, 13, and 19, Anderson teaches a network system and method, comprising: at least one network unit (100) having a variable internet protocol (IP) address and unique identification information (i.e. identity), (col. 9, lines 4-17, and lines 39-50); a server (i.e. Internet Service Provider (ISP) 710) responsive to a

request from said at least one network unit for assigning said variable IP address to said at least one network unit for a predetermined period of time, (col. 9, lines 4-9, col. 12, line 57, through col. 13, line 12); and an agent server (760), including a communication unit (i.e. interface to Internet 750) (see Fig. 7), for receiving said unique identification information and said variable IP address from said at least one network unit (col. 9, lines 39-50), for transferring said unique identification information and said variable IP address (col. 9, lines 39-50), and for receiving from a user (720) unique identification information of a network unit selected by the user (col. 9, lines 39-50), a database (1001) connected to the communication unit for receiving and storing said variable IP address and said unique identification information transferred from said communication unit (col. 12, line 57-col. 13, line 29), and a control unit (i.e. processor in agent server 760) connected to said communication unit and to said database for receiving from the user via said communication unit said unique identification information of said network unit selected by the user (col. 9, lines 42-45, col.13, lines 13-17), for searching said database for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit on the basis of the unique identification information received from the user, (col. 13, lines 13-17), and for enabling the user to gain access to said selected network unit in accordance with results of the searching of said database (i.e. the user is enabled to gain access to the selected network unit by the processor in agent server 760 sending the variable IP address back to the user's browser, thereby enabling the user's browser to transparently gain access to the selected network unit), (col. 9, lines 39-50, and col. 13, lines 21-29); wherein said unique identification information includes at least one of an

Ethernet address of said at least one network unit (col. 12, lines 13-19), and a search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit, (col. 9, lines 39-50).

Although the disclosed system and method taught by Anderson shows substantial features of the claimed invention, it fails to expressly disclose: the ISP includes a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server.

Nevertheless, an ISP including a DHCP server was well known in the art at the time of the present invention. In analogous teachings, Sistanizadeh discloses prior art teachings of an ISP (10, 14) including a DHCP server (52, 54), (col. 2, lines 56-65).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Anderson to show the ISP includes a DHCP server. As was known in the art, this would have provided the ISP with a server that gives a user a temporary IP address in order facilitate the user connecting to the Internet, (Sistanizadeh, col. 2, lines 56-59, Anderson, col. 9, lines 4-9).

5. In considering claims 4, 10, and 16, Anderson teaches said control unit receiving at least one of said Ethernet address of said at least one network unit and said search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit from the user over said network and via said communication unit, comparing said at least one of said Ethernet address of said at least one network unit and said search keyword for said variable IP address of said at least one network unit with data stored in said database to

produce a match, and searching for said variable IP address when the match is produced, (col. 9, lines 39-50).

6. In considering claims 5, 11, 12, and 22, Anderson teaches the data stored in the database being updated at regular time intervals. See col. 13, lines 1-12, and col. 14, lines 54-67.

7. In considering claim 21, Anderson teaches the unique identification information comprising at least one of an Ethernet address, and a search keyword corresponding to the network unit selected by the user, (col. 9, lines 39-50).

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HASSAN PHILLIPS whose telephone number is (571)272-3940. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (9am-6pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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